

# **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

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December 19, 2017

Dr. Ryan Plosker  
Executive Director  
New England Academy, Inc.  
96 Cherry Hill Drive  
Beverly, MA 01915

Re: Mid-cycle Review  
A - New England Academy Day School Program

Dear Dr. Plosker:

Enclosed is the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's ("Department") Mid-cycle Review Report based upon the Mid-cycle Review conducted in your private school program in December 2017. This Mid-cycle Review Report contains the Department's findings regarding the implementation status and effectiveness of corrective steps taken in response to your previous Program Review Report issued on May 29, 2015. This report also includes a report on the status of implementation for new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your program's last Program Review. Because the Department determined all requirements were found to be either fully implemented or commendable during the 2015 Program Review, this Mid-cycle Review Report includes a report on the status of selected Mid-cycle Review criteria as well as the implementation of new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your program's last Program Review.

We have determined that your program is in substantial compliance with the selected Mid-cycle Review criteria as well as any new state or federal special education requirements enacted since your last Program Review. You and your entire staff are to be congratulated for your efforts in implementing all necessary improvements. Your program will now receive an updated status of "Full Approval." This approval shall remain in effect for three (3) years and will be contingent upon continued compliance with all regulations contained within 603 CMR 28.00 "Special Education Regulations" and 603 CMR 18.00 "Program And Safety Standards For Approved Public Or Private Day And Residential Special Education School Programs." The Department may change this approval status at any point during this three-year period if circumstances arise that warrant such a change. The Department will notify you of your program's next regularly scheduled Program Review several months before it is to occur. At this time we anticipate the next routine monitoring visit to occur sometime during the 2020-2021 school year, unless the Department determines that there is some reason to schedule this visit earlier.

**Please be advised that the attached Department Approval Certificate must be conspicuously posted in a public place within the program as required by 603 CMR 28.09.**

Your staff's cooperation throughout these follow-up monitoring activities is appreciated. Should you require additional clarification of information included in our report, please do not hesitate to contact the Onsite Team Chairperson.

Sincerely,

Joanne Morris, M.Ed., Mid-cycle Review Chairperson  
Office of Approved Special Education Schools

Nina M. Marchese, M.Ed., Director  
Office of Approved Special Education Schools

c: Jeff Wulfson, Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education  
John Vogus, President, New England Academy Board of Directors

Encl.: Mid-cycle Review Report  
Full Approval Certificate, Expiration Date: August 31, 2021  
New England Academy Day School Program



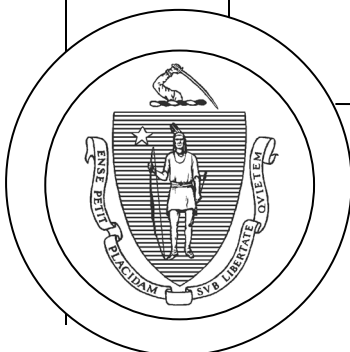
## **MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT**

**New England Academy, Inc.**

**MCR Onsite Dates: 12/04/2017 - 12/05/2017**

**Programs under review for the agency:**

**A - New England Academy Day School Program**



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**Jeff Wulfson**  
**Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**

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## MID-CYCLE REVIEW REPORT

### PS Criterion #2.2 - Approvals, Licenses, Certificates of Inspection

**Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation indicated that there were current approvals, licenses and certificates of inspection for all buildings used by the students.

### PS Criterion #2.3 - EEC Licensure (Residential Programs Only)

**Rating:**

Not Applicable

**Basis for Findings:**

This standard is not applicable to day programs.

### PS Criterion #4.5 - Immediate Notification

**Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation indicated that the Immediate Notification Policy and Procedures, regarding serious incidents, meets the current requirements and includes notification to appropriate parties of such incidents, as well as the person responsible for oversight. A review of student records showed that the program maintains copies of all incident reports regarding students.

### PS Criterion #6.1 - Daily Instructional Hours/6.4 School Days Per Year

**Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation indicated that all students were scheduled to receive the required number of instructional hours.

**PS Criterion #8.5 - Current IEP & Student Roster****Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation and student records indicated that there was a current IEP issued by the responsible public school district and consented to by the student's parent/guardian or student, when applicable, for each enrolled Massachusetts student. The program maintains documentation of efforts to obtain a current IEP from the responsible school district for students whose IEPs are not current.

**PS Criterion #9.1 - Policies and Procedure for Behavior Support****Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation and interviews indicated that the program has developed and is implementing written Behavior Support Policies and Procedures consistent with the regulations under 603 CMR 46.00 regarding appropriate responses to students behavior that may require immediate intervention. Behavior support policies and procedures are reviewed annually, provided to staff annually and made available to parents of enrolled students

**PS Criterion #9.1(a) - Student Separation Resulting from Behavior Support****Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the policies and procedures regarding Student Separation Resulting from Behavior Support include a requirement that a student be continuously observed by a staff member at all times, staff shall be with the student or immediately available to the student at all times, procedures are in place for obtaining principal approval for a time-out lasting more than 30 minutes based upon the student's continuing agitation and that time out shall cease as soon as the student has calmed.

**PS Criterion #9.4 - Physical Restraint****Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation and staff interviews indicated that the program administers physical restraints only in emergency situations of last resort and with extreme caution when needed to protect a student and/or a member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm in order to prevent or minimize any harm to the student as a result of the use of physical restraint.

**PS Criterion #11.3 - Educational Administrator Qualifications****Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation indicated that the Educational Administrator possessed the required qualifications to serve in this position.

**PS Criterion #11.4 - Teachers (Special Education Teachers and General Education Teachers)****Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation indicated that at the time of the Mid-cycle Review the teaching staff were appropriately licensed or had been granted an appropriate waiver for the 2017-2018 school year.

**PS Criterion #11.5 - Related Services Staff****Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation indicated that the staff providing or supervising the provision of related services were appropriately certified, licensed or registered in their professional areas.

**PS Criterion #11.6 - Master Staff Roster****Rating:**

Implemented

**Basis for Findings:**

A review of documentation indicated the Master Staff Roster contained the name, program job title, corresponding Uniform Financial Report (UFR) title number and full-time equivalent (FTE) for all staff. The Master Staff Roster also accurately corresponded to the last approved ESE staffing plan.